

Serial No. 10/810,747

PATENT
Docket No. 93690-010100/03-0598**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A reclosable zipper for positioning between two layers of web material comprising:

a first profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and at least one flange extending from the base, the flange having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a second profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and at least one flange extending from the base, the flange having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a first sealant layer formed on the outer surface of at least one flange of the first profile member and a second sealant layer formed on the outer surface of at least one flange of the second profile member, the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer protruding from the flange wherein the first sealant layer and second sealant layer have a generally teardrop shape to define an open air gap between the first profile member and a first layer of web material and second profile member and a second layer of web material;

and a standoff area formed on the inner surface of the flange having the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein the standoff area is generally aligned with the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein the first profile member and the second profile member are formed from a first material and the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer is formed from a second material.

Claim 4 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 3 wherein the second material is a heat activated adhesive.

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Claim 5 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 3 wherein the standoff area is formed from the first material.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer layers are extruded with the first and second profile members.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein each flange includes an edge spaced from the interlocking closure element, the first sealant layer and the second sealant sealing layer being formed on the edge of the flange.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer is formed on the flanges of both first profile member and the second profile member.

Claim 10 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 1, wherein the first profile member includes a pair of flanges and the second profile member includes a pair of flanges.

Claim 11 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 10 further comprising a pair of standoff areas formed on the inner surface of each flange of both the first profile member and the second profile member.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The reclosable zipper of claim 11 wherein each of the standoff areas is generally aligned with the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer ~~one of the~~ sealant layers.

Claim 13 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 10 wherein the pair of flanges on the first profile member extend in opposite directions from the base of the first profile member and the pair of flanges of the second profile member extend in opposite directions from the base of the second profile member.

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Claim 14 (withdrawn) A method of attaching a reclosable zipper to a web of material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and a pair of flanges extending from the base, each flange having a sealant layer formed on an outer surface of the flange and a standoff area formed on an inner surface of the flange;

providing a second profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and a pair of flanges extending from the base, each flange having a sealant layer formed on an outer surface of the flange and a standoff area formed on an inner surface of the flange;

moving the first and second profile members into a profile guide having a first guide element and a second guide element, wherein the first and second guide elements are positioned between the flanges of the first profile member and the second profile member, wherein the standoff area formed on each of the first and second profile members contacts the respective first and second guide members;

positioning the web of material adjacent to the sealant layer formed on both of the first and second profile members;

moving a heated sealant bar into contact with the web of material to melt the sealant layer formed on both the first profile member and the second profile member, wherein the standoff area formed on each of the flanges of the first and second profile members supports the flange against the guide member.

Claim 15 (withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the standoff areas are each generally aligned with one of the sealant layers.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the sealant layer is extruded with each of the first and second profile members.

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Claim 17 (withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein the heated sealing bar melts only the sealant layer and does not deform the base of either the first profile member or the second profile member.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A reclosable zipper for positioning between two layers of web material comprising:

a first profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and a pair of flanges each extending from the base, each flange having an inner surface, an outer surface and an edge spaced from the interlocking closure element;

a second profile member having a base, an interlocking closure element extending from the base and a pair of flanges each extending from the base, each flange having an inner surface, an outer surface and an edge spaced from the interlocking closure element;

a first sealant layer formed on the outer surface of at least one flange of the first profile member and a second sealant layer formed on the outer surface of at least one flange of the second profile member, the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer protruding from the outer surface of the flange wherein the first sealant layer and second sealant layer have a generally teardrop shape to define an open air gap between the first profile member and a first layer of web material and second profile member and a second layer of web material.

Claim 19 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 18 wherein the first profile member and the second profile member are formed from a first material and the first sealant layer and the second sealant layer layers are formed from a second material.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original) The reclosable zipper of claim 18 wherein each flange of the first profile member includes a sealant layer and each flange of the second profile member includes a sealant layer.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

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Claim 24 (new) The reclosable zipper of claim 1 wherein the first profile member and second profile member are formed with low density polyethylene and the first sealant layer and second sealant layer are formed with a material with a lower melting point than the low density polyethylene.

Claim 25 (new) The reclosable zipper of claim 18 wherein the first profile member and second profile member are formed with low density polyethylene and the first sealant layer and second sealant layer are formed with a material with a lower melting point than the low density polyethylene.